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BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1957.

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Assistant School Medical Officer.

September, 1958.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1957.

According to the Registrar General's mid-year estimate there was again a slight increase of 130 in the population of the Urban District compared with the previous year.

There was an increase in the number of deaths from all causes, the number being 113 compared with 88 in the previous year. There was an increase in the incidence of measles during the year, but there were no cases of poliomyelitis and only a small number of cases of other notifiable infectious diseases.

Local Industries - These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 692 persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply - Drought conditions which continued from April to August caused the yield from the springs to fall to a low level. During June and July, it was found necessary to curtail the supply at night.

Due to shortage of water and lack of pressure in the town's system of supply, it is necessary to supply the higher areas of the town from the Tees Valley Water Board.

Due to the improved sanitary conditions of houses and other premises in the town, private housing and Council housing redevelopment shortly to be commenced in Bridgegate and Thorngate Wynd, the demand for water is constantly increasing and the areas affected by lack of pressure extends each year.

Seven samples of water were taken in the town and the Startforth detached area. Five of these were in Class I, three of which were Tees Valley Water Board water, one was in Class II and one in Class III.

Further samples taken at the Stoney Keld Springs after heavy rainfall have proved unsatisfactory, and as I have previously reported, it is likely that during these wet periods a certain amount of contamination originating from the surface of the moorland gathering grounds gains access to the springs.

Although the bacteriological analysis of the water in the town is fairly satisfactory, there is always a danger of surface contamination at the source of supply and at the open reservoir.

As mentioned in my last report, it is advisable in view of the deficiencies in the water supply system in regard to bacteriological purity and pressure, that the Council should endeavour to conclude their negotiations with the Tees Valley Water Board. The Council could then decide whether or not it would be advisable to proceed with the water scheme submitted to the Ministry some time ago by the Council's consulting engineers, which provided for the laying of a new main to the higher parts of the town to give reasonable pressure in that area; also for the chlorination of the water, and the fencing in of the reservoir.

The water supply from the Tees Valley Water Board to certain areas of the town is chlorinated and if the Council intend to retain their present supply I consider it would be advisable to chlorinate the town's springs supply as recommended by your Consulting Engineers to remove any doubt as to the purity of the water over the whole area of the supply.

Refuse Tip - As further areas of the tip are filled to the final levels the surface is being covered with earth, reseeded, fenced and put back into agricultural land.

The tipping face is proceeding in a north-westerly direction and moving further away from the highway.

Land to the west of the tipping face not yet required for tipping purposes is let annually for grazing.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - A scheme is being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers in connection with the proposal, which has been agreed in principle by the Council, to accept and treat the soil drainage from Startforth village lying within the Startforth R.D.C. area and from houses in Darlington Road and the new Secondary Modern School in Green Lane lying within the area of the Barnard Castle Rural Council.

Provision will be made in the scheme to treat the flow from these areas lying outside the U.D.C. boundary together with the increased flow from the town due to the considerable housing development, improved sanitary conditions, new Technical Grammar School in Prospect Place, and wash water from Glaxo Laboratories. Provision must also be made for the future estimated flows from all sources during the next 15 to 20 years. A considerable amount of investigation and data was required and most of this has now been obtained for the completion of the report.

Closet Accommodation - At the end of the year eight properties had dry closets, the rest being served with closets on the water carriage system.

Housing - The Council's statutory return covering five years from 1st August, 1955 required under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, is as follows:-

Estimate of number of houses in the area suitable for action under Sections 25 and 14 of the Housing Act, 1936	84
Number already in Clearance Areas - 1-8-55	10
Number in proposed Clearance Areas	62
Number proposed to be subject to Demolition Orders etc.	12

Clearance Areas - The Council's decision in October, 1956 to make 10 Clearance Areas covering 53 houses and 1 lock up shop was the subject of a Public Inquiry held on the 7th May, 1957 by B. J. Fleming, Esq., A.R.T.P.A., and the Minister confirmed the following Orders:-

Clearance Areas 1 to 5 covering 36 houses in No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956 - Confirmed 8th August, 1957.

Clearance Area No. 6 covering 4 houses in No. 1 Clearance Order, 1956 - Confirmed 13th August, 1957.

Clearance Area No. 7 covering 3 houses in No. 2 Clearance Order, 1956 - Confirmed 8th August, 1957.

Clearance Area No. 8 covering 3 houses in No. 2 Clearance Order, 1956 - Not confirmed as the owner made representation to make these into garages. The Council on 20th January, 1953 accepted an undertaking from the owner under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act, 1957, and made Closing Orders on the property.

Clearance Area No. 9 covering 3 houses and outbuildings in No. 2 Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956 - Confirmed 5th July, 1957.

Clearance Area No. 10 covering 4 houses and a lock-up shop in a Clearance Order - Confirmed 8th August, 1957.

Six houses were subject to Demolition Orders on 1st January, 1957, and during the year a Demolition Order was placed on 18a, Newgate and Closing Orders on 16a, Newgate, 38 & 57, Bridgegate and Sayer's Cottage, Market Place.

No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	3
No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	4
No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses, demolition of which temporarily postponed	8
No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	1

Reconditioning and Repair - No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

1. As a result of informal action	10
2. By owners as result of a statutory notice	2
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	NIL

Improvement Grants - Housing Act, 1949.

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority	8
2. Applications rejected by Local Authority	NIL
3. Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	29

New Dwellings - 16 Flats and 2 Houses were built by the North Eastern Housing Association for the Council.

The J. I. Dawson Trustees, who are a Housing Association, built another 2 Bungalows in Park Terrace.

10 private dwellings were completed during the year.

Future development by the Council - The 3 houses on The Bank, redevelopment of a site in a Clearance Area were nearing completion at the end of the year.

The contractor was demolishing a building in Thorngate prior to the development of the site as a flat with maisonette above.

The planning of the redevelopment in Bridgegate was complete and a contract for 14 dwellings and the roads and sewers was out for tender.

The number of applications on the Council's housing list at the end of the year was 202 compared with a figure of 140 at the end of 1956.

Provision of Houses by Local Authority

	Situation	No. of Bedrooms				Total
		1	2	3	4	
Pre. 1939	Dunelm Square Barnard Castle U.D.C.	4	13	6	2	25
	Dunelm Square North Eastern Housing Assoc.	10	-	-	-	10
	Dawson Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	14	8	44
	Total Pre. 1939	14	35	20	10	79
Post 1939	Victoria Road (Key Workers) Barnard Castle U.D.C.	-	-	12	-	12
	Zetland Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	20	28	6	54
	Montalbo Road Estate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8	-	82	12	102
	Zetland Road Extension North Eastern Housing Assoc.	6 Flats	6 Flats	14	13	39
	Green Lane Site North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8 Flats	68 8 Flats	80	12	176
	Total Post 1939	22	116	215	30	383
	GRAND TOTAL	36	151	235	40	462
In course of erection	The Bank North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	-	2	1	3
	Thorngate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	1	-	1	-	2

* Comprises 7 houses and 18 flats.

Confirmed Clearance Areas

9 dwellings in Clearance Areas made before 1939 were still standing on 31st December. Two were occupied, 1 & 2, Grey Lane (Priory Yard) by Mr. and Mrs. H. Foster and family and 15, Thorngate by Mr. S. Hall.

New Clearance Areas position at 31st December, 1957

No. of Clearance Area	Date area confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupiers	No. of Houses in occupation	No. demolished	No. vacant
1	8-8-57	4	-	-	-	4
2	-do-	5	13	4	-	1
3	-do-	15	36	10	-	6
4	-do-	3	7	2	-	1
5	-do-	8	3	2	-	6
6	13-8-57	4	4	6	-	-
7	8-8-57	3	7	3	-	-
9	5-7-57	3	7	2	-	1
10	8-8-57	4	7	4	-	-
TOTALS		50	84	33	-	19

It will be necessary to clear the houses in Areas 1 to 5 before the Bridgogate development can be completed.

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	18	12	1
Factories not included in above which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	55	14	2
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	7	19	4
TOTALS	80	45	7

The number of outworkers remains at six. All premises have been inspected and the conditions found were satisfactory.

Tents and Caravans

Three licences to station individual trailer caravans were issued during the year.

There are two camping grounds in the area.

Field O.S. No. 2 near the Red Well Inn, Harmire Road, has a yearly licence to station 20 trailer caravans at any one time.

The camping ground on Field O.S. No. 58 near Prospect Place is not restricted.

The management and layout of both of these camping grounds are far from ideal.

Rodent Control

The part-time rodent operative continues to do the treatment of infested premises. The only major infestation found during the year was at the Council's refuse tip.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the town and almost all of the thirty-five retailers sell pre-packed ice cream.

Milk

During the year, the order came in force requiring all milk in the area to be sold under a recognised designation. Six retailers are licensed to sell Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested and Sterilized milk.

Slaughterhouses

4 slaughterhouses were licensed during the year.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Slaughterhouse, Birch Road | Mr. F. A. Youngs |
| 2. Slaughterhouse rear of 46, The Bank | Mr. R. C. Jackson |
| 3. Slaughterhouse, Vere Road | Mr. W. H. Foster |
| 4. Slaughterhouse rear of 54, Galgate | Mr. W. Peat |

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in year
ending 31st December, 1957.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	731	48	64	2,375	919	Nil
Number inspected	731	48	63	2,247	915	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	2	8	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	142	6	1	8	122	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	19.42	12.5	4.76	0.71	13.44	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	9	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.68	-	-	-	0.99	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar General's Estimated figure - mid-year 1957)	5,160
Number of inhabited houses	1,646
Rateable Value	£ 52,715
Sum represented by a penny rate (Financial Year ended 31/3/57)	£184.8.10

I am indebted to the Curator of the Bowes Museum, Mr. Thomas Wake, for permission to include the following table.

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1957
compiled from the Bowes Museum

Observation Station:	Bowes Museum
Observer:	Thomas Wake, Curator
Height of Gauge above Sea Level:	550 feet

<u>1957</u>	<u>Ins.</u>
January	3.01
February	2.73
March	1.81
April	.21
May	1.79
June	1.18
July	3.59
August	4.34
September	4.14
October	2.72
November	1.77
December	<u>3.38</u>
	<u>30.67</u>
Average	
5 years 1953 - 1957	29.67 ins.
	30.67 1957
	33.14 1956
	22.43 1955
	37.45 1954
	24.67 1953

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live-Births</u>	Legitimate } 106 {	98	43	55
	Illegitimate }	8	5	3
<u>Crude Birth-Rate</u>	20.5 per 1,000 home population.			
<u>Adjusted Rate</u>	19.5 " " " "			
<u>Corresponding Rate for England and Wales:</u>	16.1 per 1,000 home population.			

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate } 1 {	1	1	-
	Illegitimate }	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate - per 1,000 home population - 0.19.

Still Birth Rate for previous year - 0.59.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Deaths</u>	113	60	53

Crude Death Rate - 21.9 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate - 15.1 " " " "

For England and Wales - 11.5 " " "

Deaths of Infants Under One Year.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	4	4
Legitimate	4	4
Illegitimate	-	-

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	3	1
Legitimate	3	1
Illegitimate	-	-

Death rate of Infants under One Year.

All Infants (per 1,000 live-births) - 75.

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Cancer (all types)	3	3	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	8	18
Coronary disease, angina	9	6	15
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	21	19	40
Other circulatory disease	3	1	4
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	4	-	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	4	4	8
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	1	3	4
	<u>60</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>113</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

151 notifications of infectious diseases (not including Tuberculosis or Food poisoning) were received during the year. There was an increase in the incidence of measles (122 cases compared with 105 in 1956) but the number of cases of whooping cough was smaller (19 compared with 44 in 1956).

There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme

During the year the scheme for the vaccination of children against poliomyelitis which was instituted by the Government in 1956 was again resumed, and children born between the years 1947 and 1954 who had previously registered but who had not been inoculated were given two injections of vaccine. In May the scheme was extended to include children born in the years 1955 and 1956, and parents of children in the previous categories who had not already registered their children, were given another opportunity to do so.

The vaccinations were mainly carried out at the Child Welfare Clinic and the injections were given either by the Child Welfare Medical Officer or by local General Practitioners who were asked to do this work where there were sufficient children available to form a session.

It is too early yet to give a full assessment of the value of the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme, but the following information which was published later in the year in the medical press gives a very satisfactory preliminary assessment of the results on the first groups inoculated.

"In the 74,660 vaccinated children born 1947-1950 and aged roughly $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$ years who received two injections of vaccine, one case of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred, giving an attack rate of 1.3 per 100,000. The attack rate in the corresponding unvaccinated children was 8.2 per 100,000. At this latter rate six cases would have occurred in the vaccinated group in place of the one actually observed.

In the 74,024 children born 1951-54, and aged $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ years who received two injections of vaccine, three cases of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred, giving an attack rate of 4.1 per 100,000. The attack rate in the corresponding unvaccinated children was 20.1 per 100,000. At this latter rate 15 cases would have occurred in the vaccinated group in place of the three actually observed.

In both age groups observed the incidence of paralytic disease in the vaccinated children was only about $\frac{1}{5}$ th of the incidence in the unvaccinated.

Number of children born between 1947 and 1956
and residing in the Urban district, who received
two injections of poliomyelitis vaccine during the year 202.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year.

	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis not confirmed	Total cases
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	6	-	-	6
Measles	122	1	-	122
Whooping Cough	19	-	-	19
Erysipelas	1	-	-	1
Dysentery	1	1	1	-

Analysis of the Total Cases (confirmed) in age groups

	Under one year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	2	2
Measles	2	28	38	51	2	1	-
Whooping Cough	3	3	6	7	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Scarlet Fever	1	5	4	5	2	1	2	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	147	27	-	117	4	37	105	122
Whooping Cough	45	4	9	23	-	3	44	19
Polio-myelitis	-	1	1	-	-	-	4	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	3	5	3	1	2	2	6
Erysipelas	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-

Diphtheria Immunisation

There was again an increase in the number of children who were given a primary course of immunisation. According to the records received at the County Health Department 69 children were immunised compared with 41 in 1956, 19 in 1955, 54 in 1954 and 56 in 1953.

Responsibility for the provision of facilities for immunisation and for the maintenance of propaganda now rests with the County Health Department. Facilities are provided at the child welfare centre for the immunisation of children under five and by private practitioners for children of any age.

Leaflets drawing attention to the need for immunisation are distributed by post at the age of eight months and twelve months, and to encourage re-inforcing doses, at the age of four years nine months. The County Health Visitor visits children who have not been immunised.

In addition, advice and reminders are given to parents by the School Medical Officer at the annual medical inspection of schools.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year
ended 31st December, 1957.

	Age at date of final injection	Total under
	0 - 4 yrs., 5 - 14 yrs.	15
Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1957.	50	69

Number given re-inforcing injections during the year

Tuberculosis

Two cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. In one case (respiratory) the patient was a female aged 30, and in the other (meningeal) the patient was a boy aged 1 year.

Deaths. There was one death from respiratory tuberculosis, the person concerned being a female aged 72 years.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Staff - The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer. A grant is made towards his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Public Health Inspector are whole-time Officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and part by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town, and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals - There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity cases or Children, in the area.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Disease Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities - I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

T A B L E A.

	Bishop Auckland No. 14 Control Area. *	Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts
Ambulance Controls	1	Nil
Clerk-Telephonists	4	Nil
Ambulance Depots	5	2
Ambulances	15	2
Sitting-Case Cars	1	Nil
Driver-Attendants	42	4

- * Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts form part of this Control Area, the column adjoining showing the depots etc., actually situated within the districts. The whole of the facilities provided in the Control Area are available to the districts. The Ambulance Control is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed by 4 clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service.

T A B L E B .

Summary of work done during 1957 by
vehicles stationed in Barnard Castle
Urban and Rural Districts.

Journeys	Cases Carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
1086	633	3981	4614	57987

Note:- In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots within the control area and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in sanitary district order and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

Nursing Arrangements

Home Nursing - Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities as from 5th July, 1948. The agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, whereby the Durham County Council delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, ceased to exist on 1st April, 1954, and the County Council took over direct administration from this date.

Direct control was also assumed by the County Council of the arrangements made for the provision of a domiciliary midwife service.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area by two District Nurse Midwives resident in the town.

Miss L. H. Dodd,
15, Harmire Road,
Barnard Castle

Telephone No.
Barnard Castle 2149.

Mrs. M. L. Morton,
3, Harmire Road,
Barnard Castle.

Telephone No.
Barnard Castle 3156.

Midwifery Service

No. of Midwifery and Maternity Cases	86
No. of Hospital patients discharged before the 14th day	8

Home Nursing Service

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Medical	73	1652
Surgical	27	606
Tuberculosis	2	151
Total	102	2409

No. of Cases included in the above total who were 65 years of age or over	66	1697
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No. of Cases included in the above total who were under 5 years of age	8	38
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There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress - Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.) chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle, under the administration of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee. - The Committee, of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County Medical Officer's reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. F. L. White, and to Mr. E. Dixon, Public Health Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1958.